

Amendment and Response
Applicants: Lars Björck et al.
Serial Number: 09/869,677

Attorney Docket: KCO1004US

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An isolated and purified polypeptide which comprises:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:2,
(b) a variant of (a) having at least 95% identity thereto and which is capable of binding an anti-MtsA antibody specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, or
(c) a fragment of (a) or (b) of at least ~~6~~ least 60 amino acids in length which is capable of binding an anti-MtsA antibody specifically binds an antibody which binds specifically to a MtsA polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

2. (currently amended) A vaccine composition comprising an isolated and purified polypeptide which comprises:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO:1~~ SEQ ID NO:2,
(b) a variant of (a) having at least 95% identity thereto and which is capable of generating generates an immune response to a Streptococcus, or
(c) a fragment of (a) or (b) of at least ~~6~~ least 60 amino acids in length which is capable of generating generates an immune response against a Streptococcus.

3. (original) A vaccine composition according to claim 2 wherein the Streptococcus is a group A Streptococcus.

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4. (withdrawn) A polynucleotide having a sequence which is
 - (i) the nucleotide coding sequence of SEQ ID NO 1 or the sequence complementary thereto,
 - (ii) a nucleotide sequence which selectively hybridises to a said sequence (i) or a fragment thereof, or
 - (iii) a nucleotide sequence which codes for a polypeptide having the same amino acid sequence as that encoded by a said sequence (i) or (ii).
5. (withdrawn) A polynucleotide according to claim 4 wherein the sequence (i), (ii) or (iii) encodes a polypeptide capable of generating an immune response to a Streptococcus.
6. (withdrawn) An expression vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 4 operably linked to a regulatory sequence.
7. (withdrawn) A host cell transformed with a polynucleotide of claim 4.
8. (withdrawn) A process of producing a polypeptide suitable for use in vaccination against a Streptococcus comprising maintaining the host cell as defined in claim 7 under conditions to provide expression of the polypeptide and recovering the expressed polypeptide.
9. (withdrawn) An antibody specific for a polypeptide as defined in claim 1.

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10. (previously presented) A method of vaccinating a patient against a Streptococcal infection, which method comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a polypeptide as defined in claim 1.

11. (previously presented) A vaccine composition comprising a polypeptide as defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 12 (canceled).

*vaccine
w/ variants?*
? F
*or
W-mers?*